If You Fish
Regularly in
Montana,
Help Gather
Fishing Information
Write The
Department of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
For A Fisherman's Log

1420 E. 6TH AVENUE
HELENA, MT 59620

1983-1984 MONTANA

FISHING REGULATIONS

VALID MAY 1, 1983 THROUGH APRIL 30, 1984

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the following dates and regulations for the 1983-84 fishing season are adopted.

Montana Fish and Game Commission
James W. Flynn, Secretary
January 5, 1983

To be in full force and effect through April 30, 1984. All regulations are subject to change by the commission.

COLOR CODES

Colored portions of map indicate special regulations apply there. For details refer to matching colors under regulations by district.

FISHING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

CLOSED TO FISHING ALL YEAR

SEASONS, HOURS, LIMITS, TACKLE OR FISHING FROM BOATS MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN STANDARD REGULATIONS FOR DISTRICT, ALSO CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS

INDIAN RESERVATIONS, NATIONAL PARKS AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES (Contact Agency for any Additional Restrictions)

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FISHING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT INCLUDES ALL WATERS IN MONTANA WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT INCLUDES ALL WATERS IN MONTANA LYING EAST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE (INCLUDING THE BELLY AND ST. MARY DRAINAGES) AND WATERS LYING WEST OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED BOUNDARY: Interstate 15 from Montana-Canandian border south to Northwest Bypass Junction near Great Falls, east on said Bypass to Smelter Avenue, east on Smelter Avenue to 15th Street, south on said street to north bank of Missouri River, east along high water mark of Missouri River to Black Eagle Dam, across said dam and following high water mark along the south bank of the Missouri River, easterly to State Route 80 at Fort Benton; southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, easterly on State Route 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 191, northeasterly along U.S. Highway 191 to its junction with State Route 19, south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87, south on U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with U.S. Highway 12, west on U.S. Highway 12 to its junction with State Route 3, south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 94, northeasterly on Interstate 94 to its junction with Interstate 90, easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the Montana-Wyoming border.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT INCLUDES ALL WATERS LYING EAST OF THE CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT. FOR THE BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, SEE **CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT.**

HOW TO USE THESE REGULATIONS

Montana fishing regulations have been revised this year to make them more understandable: The seven fishing districts of former years have been reduced to three. The regulations for each fishing district have been organized into six sections: Standard Regulations, Exceptions — Restrictive, Special Regulations, Exceptions — Liberal, Bait, and Nets.

We suggest that in reading these regulations you:

1. Acquaint yourself with the Statewide Standard Regulations on opposite side.
2. Locate on the map the area where you plan to fish. Note if there is any color (red, yellow, or pink) in this area and which fishing district you will be fishing in.
3. Turn the sheet over and find the appropriate district regulations. If there is no color on the map in the area where you intend to fish, the **Standard Regulations** for this district (along with the **Standard Statewide Regulations** will tell all you have to know for regular fishing with a single line.
4. Scan the **Exceptions — Liberal** for the fishing district for any of the more liberal regulations you may want to take advantage of.

If the area where you plan to fish is flagged with red or yellow on the map, there are special restrictions which you must become aware of. These will be found in the **Exceptions — Restrictive** or **Special Regulations** for the district adjacent to the color bar for the color involved.

A water in one of the pink areas on the map is in either an Indian Reservation, National Park, or National Wildlife Refuge. You should ask the appropriate agency for a copy of its fishing regulations.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A fishing license is a permit for lawful holder thereof to fish for and possess any fish within the state as authorized by fishing regulations. This includes commercial whitefish fishing in which case the license must be validated by an authorized Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department employee. There is no charge for this validation.

RESIDENTS — Each resident 15 years and older must have a license to fish. Residents 14 years old or younger may fish without a license but must observe limits and all other fishing regulations.

Free fishing permits are available from heads of respective institutions for patients at veterans' administration hospitals and for residents of state institutions other than the state penitentiary. Disabled residents who have a permanent physical or mental condition that prevents them from doing substantial gainful work may get free permits to fish from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks upon certification of disability by a doctor licensed to practice medicine in Montana.

NONRESIDENTS — All nonresidents 15 years and older must have a fishing license to fish. Nonresidents 14 years old or younger may fish without a license when accompanied by an adult with a valid Montana fishing license. The total number or pounds of all fish taken by the licensed adult and all persons 14 or younger, accompanied by such licensed adult, shall not exceed one legal limit. However, a nonresident of any age may purchase a nonresident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish.

FISHING LICENSES

RESIDENT LICENSES

RESIDENCY in order to apply for a resident Montana hunting or fishing license, one must be a legal resident of Montana for a period of six months immediately prior to making application.

Except for holders of Resident Sportsman Licenses, conservation licenses are prerequisite to purchase of fishing licenses.

Conservation License	$ 2.00
Residents 62 or older need only conservation to fish and hunt upland game birds other than turkeys.	
Resident Fishing License	$ 7.00
Resident Sportsman's License (includes Conservation License, 1 deer, 1 elk, 1 black bear, game birds and fishing)	$ 35.00
Paddlefish Tags (needed for Yellowstone River) limit of two in 1983	Two for $ 3.00

NONRESIDENT FISHING LICENSES

A Wildlife Conservation License is required before fishing licenses may be purchased. You may apply for other licenses at the same time you apply for a conservation license.

Nonresident Conservation License	$ 2.00
Nonresident Season Fishing License	$ 30.00
Nonresident Temporary Fishing License (2 day)	$ 4.00
Nonresident Paddlefish Tag (needed for Yellowstone River) limit of two in 1983	Two for $ 3.00
Nonresident Fish, Bird and Big Game License (available from Helena, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks office only) includes an elk tag, deer "A" tag, black bear tag, authorizes hunting of game birds and fishing. Quota of 17,000	$275.00

LICENSE FEES NONREFUNDABLE

If you catch a tagged fish, please advise the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks of the:

1. Tag number and color
2. Date fish was caught
3. Species of fish
4. Length and Weight (close as possible)
5. Location of Catch (river — lake and specific area in miles from or to the nearest landmark)
6. Name and address of fisherman.

STANDARD STATEWIDE FISHING REGULATIONS

COLOR CODES

Closed to Fishing All Year

Dates, hours or limits more restrictive than general

DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

When weighing and measuring fish to determine limits, fish may have entrails removed but must have their heads and tails attached to their bodies.

Daily limit shall mean the numbers or pounds of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. No person shall take or possess more than the daily limit of fish unless otherwise specified under district regulations.

Possession limit shall mean the number or pounds of fish which may be in one person's possession anytime in any form — fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved.

Refer to district regulations for respective daily and possession limits.

SEASONS:

All dates given are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed throughout the remainder of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise specified.

LURES AND BAIT:

Artificial lures shall include any lure (including flies) that is man-made in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. Artificial lures do not include fish eggs or other chemically treated or processed natural baits or foods.

Sculpins may be used live for bait statewide, except in waters limited to artificial lures and in the Madison River between McAtee Bridge and Ennis Lake. Otherwise live fish may not be used for bait except as provided under district regulations.

Carp or goldfish may not be used in any form as bait. Other fish may be used dead as bait if they have their heads and entrails removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in waters limited to artificial lures only.

Persons fishing in waters closed to the use of live fish for bait may not have live bait fish in their immediate possession.

CHECKING STATIONS:

Fishermen and hunters are required to stop at checking stations on their routes of travel to and from fishing and hunting areas.

FISHING HOURS:

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons except on Holter Lake.

ICE FISHING SHELTERS:

Special regulations on ice fishing shelters apply in:

Bearpaw Lake	Georgetown Lake
Beaver Creek Reservoir	Hauser Lake
Browns Lake (near Ovando)	Lake Frances
Deadman's Basin Reservoir	Lake Helena
Echo Lake (near Anaconda)	

See Ice Fishing Shelter Regulations available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

GAME FISH:

All species of the family Salmonidae (chars, trout, salmon, grayling and whitefish); all species of the genus Stizostedion (sandpike or sauger and walleye pike or yellow pike-perch); all species of the genus Esox (northern pike, pickerel and muskellunge); all species of the genus Micropterus (bass); all species of the genus Polyodon (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); all species of the genus Lota (burbot or ling); and the species Ictalurus punctatus (channel catfish).

MEANS OF TAKING:

Only a single line with hook or hooks, with or without a pole may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in district regulations. The pole or line must be in immediate control.

These provisions also apply to commercial whitefish fishing as provided under district regulations.

Setlines may be used as provided under district regulations. Setlines are lines that may be unattended. They may include poles and tipups.

A screen or a net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus) for bait. Otherwise, use or possession of minnow seines, snares, or fish traps is unlawful except as provided under district regulations.

CLOSED WATERS:

All waters operated by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds shall be closed to fishing at all times. Water in which the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is operating fish traps and other special structures shall be closed to fishing as posted. Certain water supply lakes and streams and hazardous areas are closed as posted.

CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS:

Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are closed to fishing during the entire year to persons thirteen (13) years of age and older.

BEAVER PONDS, IRRIGATION CANALS AND DITCHES:

Impoundments formed by beaver dams on streams are governed by the same regulations as govern the streams. Man-made irrigation canals and ditches, unless shown otherwise under district regulations, are open year around and have the same limits as streams in that district.

NATIONAL PARKS, INDIAN RESERVATIONS AND WILDLIFE REFUGES:

Certain waters on National Parks, Indian Reservations and National Wildlife Refuges may have special regulations or permits that apply to their individual areas. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of park, reservation or refuge involved.

USE OF BOATS:

The use of boats is prohibited or restricted on many waters. See Boating Regulations available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

SIZE OF HOLE FOR ICE FISHING:

The maximum size hole that may be cut for ice fishing is 144 square inches. This does not apply to waters open to fishing through the ice with spear or gig.

IT IS UNLAWFUL:

to transport or introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any waters;
to refuse to show one's license upon demand;
to loan or transfer your fishing or hunting license or tags to any person;
to sell game fish except as prescribed by Montana Fish and Game Commission regulations;
to leave or dump any dead animal, fish, garbage or litter in or on any state or private property where public recreation is permitted;
to use any carbide, lime, giant power, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison or to have any of the same in one's possession within one hundred (100) feet of any streams where fish are found, for the purpose of stunning or killing fish;
to hire or retain an unlicensed outfitter or guide;
to waste any part of game fish suitable for food.
It is unlawful to operate upon Montana waters a boat which:
is not properly licensed and numbered with registration card carried in boat;
is not carrying equipment required by the Montana Water Safety Law (copies available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.)
does not have one serviceable, Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each passenger plus one type IV PFD in boats over 16 feet. Persons under 12 years old must wear PFD's when boat is in motion and is less than 26 feet long.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT (also see Standard Regulations)

DISTRICT BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION ON MAP SIDE

STANDARD REGULATIONS FOR DISTRICT

(Apply to all waters except those listed in Exceptions — Restrictions or Special Regulations below; these are marked with color on map.)

FISHING SEASON

Streams — Open third Saturday in May through November.

Lakes — Open entire year.

FISH SIZE LIMIT — BULL TROUT
(Dolly Varden)

The minimum size bull trout (Dolly Varden) which may be taken in the North Fork and Middle Fork of Flathead River and their tributaries and South Fork of Flathead River below Hungry Horse Dam, main Flathead River above Kerr Dam, Flathead Lake, and that portion of the Swan River below Big Fork Dam shall be no less than eighteen (18) inches long with head and tail attached to body.

DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Unless otherwise specified, (see Special Regulations) the following limits are both daily and possession limits:

Each fisherman may take only one of Limit 1, depending upon the drainage, plus all of Limits 2 through 7.

LIMIT 1
Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout, bull trout (Dolly Varden), and grayling.

For Blackfoot, Bitterroot and Clark Fork drainages upstream from the mouth of the Flathead River.

For Streams — Five (5) fish, only one (1) of which may exceed 14 inches.

Except: Clark Fork River downstream from Milltown Dam where Limit 1 is five (5) fish only one (1) of which may exceed 16 inches.

OR

For Lakes — Ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish. Two (2) fish may be taken regardless of weight limit.

The combined daily and possession limit for a person fishing both lakes and streams is ten (10) fish.

For Flathead Lake, Flathead River above Kerr Dam, Hungry Horse Reservoir, all lakes and streams of the North Fork, South Fork and Middle Fork drainages and the Swan River below Bigfork Dam.

Five (5) fish only one (1) of which may be a bull trout (Dolly Varden) daily and in possession. Except for Flathead Lake where the lake trout limit shall be one (1) fish.

For other streams and lakes of the Kootenai and Flathead drainage and the Clark Fork drainage downstream from the mouth of the Flathead River.

Ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish, whichever is reached first in any combination daily and in possession.

LIMIT 2.
Brook trout — Ten (10) pounds, not to exceed 20 fish.

LIMIT 3.
Bass — Five (5) fish.

LIMIT 4.
Northern pike — Fifteen (15) fish.

LIMIT 5.
Salmon — Twenty (20) fish daily or in possession by angling or snagging where permitted except in:

Flathead Lake, all streams in drainage north of lake, Swan River below Big Fork Dam, Brenneman Slough, Whitefish Lake and Lake Mary Ronan — ten (10) fish daily and in possession. On Lake Mary Ronan during snagging season the limit shall be twenty (20) fish daily and in possession by angling or snagging.

Clearwater Drainage — Ten (10) fish except during snagging season when daily limit shall be thirty-five (35) and seventy (70) in possession.

Georgetown Lake and tributaries — No daily or possession limit.

LIMIT 6.
Whitefish — One hundred (100) fish daily and in possession including fish taken for sale.

LIMIT 7.
Burbot (ling) — Five (5) fish daily and in possession.

It shall be unlawful to take or possess any **sturgeon** of the genus Acipenser **(white sturgeon)**

EXCEPTIONS — RESTRICTIVE
(waters marked with color on map)

STREAMS IN FLATHEAD, KOOTENAI AND SWAN RIVER DRAINAGES
Closed Entire Year:

Rogers Lake spawning inlet.

The following tributaries of North Fork Flathead River: Big Creek, Coal Creek and all their tributaries. Whale Creek and its tributaries below Whale Creek Falls, Trail Creek (Yakinikak) and its tributaries below mouth of Thoma Creek.

The following tributaries of Middle Fork Flathead River: Granite, Morrison, Lodgepole, Long Creeks and their tributaries.

South Fork of Flathead River downstream from Hungry Horse Dam to "Devil's Elbow" as posted.

Highway 40 Bridge over Flathead River as posted.

Herrig Creek, tributary to Little Bitterroot Lake.

Rand, Green Mountain and Fish creeks, tributaries of Ashley Lake and Ashley Lake outlet creek from Ashley Dam for 300 feet downstream as posted.

Elk Creek tributary to Swan River from above bridge NE¼, Sec. 16, T20N, R17W to its source.

Donaldson and Freeland creeks, tributaries of Lake Mary Ronan.

Ashley Creek from Thompson Falls public water supply intake to its source.

Hell Roaring Creek, water supply for Polson, and its lakes from outlet of lower lake to its source.

Crow Creek and its tributaries above intake from Ronan water supply to its source.

Hot Springs Creek and its tributaries from Hot Springs public water supply intake to its source.

Flower Creek and its artificial impoundments from Power Dam to its source, excluding the natural lakes.

O'Brien Creek from Troy city water intake to a point one-fourth (¼) mile upstream as posted.

Haskell Creek and tributaries from Whitefish public water intake to its source.

Open third Saturday in May through March of the following year — Kootenai River, except for burbot (ling). (Also see Special Regulations.)

STREAMS IN CLARK FORK, BLACKFOOT AND BITTERROOT RIVER DRAINAGES
Closed Entire Year:

Rattlesnake Creek and tributary streams from Missoula water supply dam of Mountain Water Company to its source.

Basin Creek from lower Butte water supply reservoir dam to its source, including all reservoirs and tributaries.

Silver Creek above Saltese water supply intake.

Open July 1 through November — Stream tributary to Medicine Lake near Philipsburg.

LAKES AND RESERVOIRS
Closed Entire Year:

Libby Dam structure as posted and the buoyed area immediately upstream from the spillway.

Cedar Creek impoundment (Columbia Falls water supply).

Fred Burr Lake (Philipsburg water supply)

Closed as posted from October 1 until spawn taking is completed — Hatchery Bay of Flathead Lake at Somers.

Open third Saturday in May through September — Kilbrennan Lake.

Open third Saturday in May through March 15 of following year — Lake Mary Ronan.

Open December 1 through September of following year — Loon Lake tributary to Pipe Creek, 15 miles northwest of Libby.

Open third Saturday in May through October and third Saturday in December through February of following year — Georgetown Lake and Echo Lake near Anaconda.

Open July 1 through April — Medicine Lake near Philipsburg.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS
(waters marked with yellow on map)

KOOTENAI RIVER
Fishing for burbot (ling) shall be open only from March 1 through December.

LIBBY DAM
Fishing from boats or other floating craft is prohibited in Kootenai River from Libby Dam approximately 500 yards downstream to David Thompson bridge as posted.

ANACONDA SETTLING POND
All waters in Anaconda Company settling ponds system near town of Warm Springs as posted, **May 25 through September for catch-and-release fishing. Artificial lures only.** See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.

PORTIONS OF CLARK FORK AND BITTERROOT RIVERS
Clark Fork River — From Anaconda Company settling pond system spillway to Perkins Lane Bridge. Bitterroot River — from Stevensville Bridge to Florence Bridge and one (1) mile downstream from Darby Bridge to Como Bridge.

Third Saturday in May through November. Artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.

Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, bull trout (Dolly Varden). Five (5) fish per day under 14 inches OR four (4) fish under 14 inches and one (1) over 18 inches.

Limits 2 through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.

ROCK CREEK
Rock Creek near Clinton from mouth of Butte Cabin Creek to mouth of Big Hogback Creek. **Third Saturday in May through November.** Artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.

Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, bull trout (Dolly Varden) and grayling. Catch and release only.

Limits 2 through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.

Rock Creek from its mouth to mouth of Butte Cabin Creek and from mouth of Big Hogback Creek to mouth of West Fork of Rock Creek. **Third Saturday in May through November, artificial lures only**, for persons 15 years and older. Fisherman 14 years and younger may use bait. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.

Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, bull trout (Dolly Varden) and grayling. Three (3) fish per day, only one (1) of which may exceed 14 inches. This is both a daily and possession limit.

Limits 2 through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.

EXCEPTIONS — LIBERAL
STREAMS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR:

Little Bitterroot River downstream from its tunnel.
Ashley Creek below Smith Lake.
Flathead River below Kerr Dam.
Whitefish River from Whitefish Lake to Montana State Highway 40 Bridge.
Stillwater River between Upper and Lower Stillwater Lakes.
Clark Fork River downstream from Perkins Lane Bridge in Deer Lodge County.
Clearwater River below Lake Inez fish barrier.
Big Blackfoot River downstream from Scotty Brown bridge.
Bitterroot River downstream from Florence bridge.

EXTENDED WHITEFISH SEASON — Open December 1 through March of following year — all streams except:
Waters closed entire year.
Waters posted closed.

COMMERCIAL WHITEFISH FISHING — Open third Saturday in May through March of the following year — for the catching of whitefish for commercial sale:
Clark Fork River, including mainstream impoundments.
Blackfoot River.
Bitterroot River.
Flathead Lake and Flathead River from junction of North Fork and South Forks to Clark Fork.
Kootenai River from Libby Dam to Idaho border.

BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging nongame fish.

SNAGGING FOR SALMON
Open September 15 through November
Lake Mary Ronan.
Open September 15 through December
Georgetown Lake and tributaries.
all waters of the Clearwater, Flathead and Kootenai River drainages except:
Lake Mary Ronan.
Flathead Lake, and all streams in drainage north of lake, Swan River below Big Fork Dam, Brenneman Slough, and Whitefish Lake which are closed entire year to snagging.
Water closed entire year.

SPEAR FISHING — Persons swimming or submerged may take nongame fish with rubber- or spring-propelled spears in all waters open to fishing except:
Lower and Middle Thompson lakes.
Echo, Peterson, and Abbott lakes near Bigfork.
Lake Blaine near Kalispell.
Loon and Horseshoe lakes near Ferndale.
Murphy Lake near Fortine.
Blanchard Lake near Whitefish.
Lake Mary Ronan.

December 1 through March of the following year — Northern pike and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig through the ice only from:
Echo Lake near Bigfork.
Upper and Lower Stillwater lakes.

BAIT
(Use of live Fish for Bait)

Sculpins (Cottus) are the only fish that may be used live as bait. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.

NETS (Use of)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.

The use of nets or traps for catching fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of a landing net for landing hooked fish. A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT (also see Standard Regulations)

DISTRICT BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION ON MAP SIDE.

STANDARD REGULATIONS FOR DISTRICT

(Apply to all waters except those listed in **Exceptions-Restrictive** or **Special Regulations;** these waters are marked with color on map.)

FISHING SEASON

Streams — Open third Saturday in May through November.

Lakes — Open entire year.

DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Unless otherwise specified, (see Special Regulations) the following limits are both daily and possession limits.

Each fisherman may take all of the following limits:

LIMIT 1.
Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout and grayling.

On Streams — Five (5) fish, only one (1) of which may exceed 18 inches, except for Warm Springs Creek near Lewistown, and Little Bighorn River where the limit is ten (10) fish. On the Madison, Big Hole and Gallatin River only one of the five fish may be a grayling.

or

On Lakes — Ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish except in Clark Canyon Reservoir where the limit is five (5) fish. Two (2) fish may be taken regardless of weight limit.

The combined daily and possession limit for a person fishing both lakes and streams is ten (10) fish.

LIMIT 2.
Brook trout — Ten (10) pounds, not to exceed twenty (20) fish.

LIMIT 3.
Bass, sauger, walleye — Five (5) fish in any combination.

LIMIT 4.
Northern pike — Five (5) fish.

LIMIT 5.
Salmon — Ten (10) fish except during snagging season when daily limit shall be thirty-five (35) and seventy (70) in possession.

LIMIT 6.
Whitefish — One hundred (100) fish daily and in possession including those taken for sale.

There is no number limit on **catfish, burbot (ling), sturgeon and nongame fish.**

EXCEPTIONS — RESTRICTIVE
(waters marked with color on map)

STREAMS
Closed Entire Year:

Missouri River immediately below Canyon Ferry Dam as posted.

Missouri River 175 feet below Holter Dam including concrete abutments.

That portion of Giant Springs at Great Falls enclosed by concrete walks and masonry work.

West Fork of Rock Creek from Red Lodge city water intake to mouth of Washoe Creek as posted.

The following streams are closed from city water supply intake to a point one thousand (1,000) feet upstream as posted:

Indian Creek near Sheridan.

Rattlesnake Creek near Dillon.

Middle Fork Hyalite, Bozeman (Sourdough), and Lyman creeks near Bozeman.

Midvale Creek and Intake Reservoir from intake of Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to Glacier Park boundary.

O'Brien Creek above Neihart public water intake.

Willow Creek and its tributaries from White Sulphur Springs public water intake to its source.

Central Fishing District Continued

Open third Saturday in July through November — East Fork and West Fork of Hyalite Creek.

Open third Saturday in June through November:

Norwegian Creek.

South Willow Creek and North Willow Creek downstream from the Highway 287 bridges at Harrison to Willow Creek Reservoir (also see restriction below on Willow Creek Arm of Harrison Lake).

Open third Saturday in May through September — Boulder River from its mouth (near Cardwell) upstream approximately four airline miles to the bridge in T2N, R3W, S24.

Open August 1 through November:

Lightning Creek.

LAKES AND RESERVOIRS
Closed Entire Year:

A portion of Lake Frances around Conrad water supply outlet as posted.

Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted, and Toston Dam structure as posted.

Open third Saturday in May through February of following year:

Wade Lake (Madison County).

Willow Creek Arm of Harrison Reservoir as posted (also, see restrictions above on North and South Willow creeks)

Open third Saturday in June through November: Hidden Lake (Madison County).

Goose Lake (Madison County).

Otter Lake (Madison County).

Open second Saturday in June through February of following year:

Eyraud (Arod) Lakes.

Closed between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m. Mountain Standard Time or Daylight Savings Time, whichever is in effect:

Holter Reservoir.

CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS

Open as posted to persons twelve (12) years of age and under the entire year:

Spring Creek from Milwaukee Bridge to Charles Fellows fence below Choteau.

Elk Creek (South Fork Sun River) from Auchard Bridge to Boone Bridge in the town of Augusta.

Fairgrounds Pond, Helena (Yellow color also applies to Spring Meadow Lake).

SPECIAL REGULATIONS
(waters marked with yellow on map)

MADISON RIVER DRAINAGE

Madison River from Quake Lake outlet to McAtee Bridge — catch-and-release fishing only for trout and grayling. Artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.

Madison River from McAtee Bridge to Ennis Lake — sculpins not allowed for bait.

LIMIT NO. 1 — Daily and Possession Limit.

Trout and grayling — Five (5) fish per day, only one (1) of which may exceed 18 inches, and only one (1) of which may be a rainbow, and only one fish may be a grayling.

LIMITS 2 THROUGH 6 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.

Madison River from Earthquake Lake outlet to Lyon Bridge (New West Fork Madison River Bridge) and from McAtee Bridge to Varney Bridge shall be closed to fishing from boats.

Darlington Ditch (Darlinton Spring Creek) on Cobblestone Fishing Access Site (near Logan) — Catch-and-release fishing only for trout and grayling. Artificial lures only.

GALLATIN AND BIG HOLE RIVERS

Gallatin River from mouth of Portal Creek to Williams Bridge — Artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.

Gallatin River from Yellowstone National Park boundary to its confluence with East Gallatin River shall be closed to fishing from boats.

Big Hole River from Divide Dam to Melrose Bridge — **Third Saturday in May through November.** Artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations.

LIMIT NO. 1 — Daily and Possession Limit
Trout and grayling — Three (3) fish per day under 13 inches and one (1) fish per day over 22 inches, only 1 fish may be a grayling.

LIMITS 2 THROUGH 6 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.

SPRING MEADOW LAKE (Yellow color also applies to Fairgrounds Pond, Helena)

One (1) trout or bass.

Other species — no limit.

Closed to the use of any motor propelled water craft except for official patrol, search and rescue, or for scientific purposes.

BIGHORN RIVER

Afterbay Dam to Reservation Boundary:

LIMIT NO. 1 — all trout, salmon, grayling, three (3) fish only one (1) of which may be over 18 inches.

LIMITS 2 THROUGH 6 are the same as listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.

Artificial lures only (See "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations) from cable approximately 600 feet below Afterbay Dam to Bighorn Access area. The operation of any motor, or engine of any description on any vessel is prohibited from Bighorn River Afterbay Dam to Bighorn Access area except for official patrol, search and rescue, or for scientific purposes.

SUN RIVER DRAINAGE ABOVE GIBSON RESERVOIR

LIMIT NO. 1 — Rainbow trout and cutthroat trout, three (3) fish only one (1) of which may be over 18 inches.

LIMITS 2 THROUGH 6 are the same as listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.

EXCEPTIONS LIBERAL
Streams Open Entire Year

Madison River from Hebgen Dam to Varney Bridge and below Ennis Lake.

Gallatin River from Yellowstone National Park boundary to confluence with Missouri River.

East Gallatin River below mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek.

Jefferson River.

Ruby River below Ruby Dam.

Beaverhead River below Pipeorgan Bridge.

Alder Gulch Creek and Dredge Ponds from the mouth to Virginia City.

Mill Creek near Sheridan.

Missouri River.

Sun River below Gibson Dam.

Cut Bank Creek below Blackfeet Indian Reservation Boundary.

Belt Creek below bridge at Riceville.

Smith River below the confluence of North and South Forks Smith River.

Big Spring Creek and Warm Springs Creek near Lewistown.

Dearborn River and that portion of North Fork Dearborn River below high bridge on Highway 434.

Teton River below U.S. Highway 89.

Marias River.

Clarks Fork Yellowstone River.

Yellowstone River.

Bluewater Creek.

Boulder River near Big Timber.

Stillwater River.

Bighorn River.

Little Bighorn River.

Rock Creek near Red Lodge.

Red Lodge Creek below Cooney Dam.

Open Third Saturday in May through February of the following year:

Madison River from Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake.

Open December 1 to third Saturday in May — for catch-and-release fishing only, artificial lures only; see "Lures and Bait" under General Regulations:

Poindexter Slough.

Armstrong Spring Creek.

EXTENDED WHITEFISH SEASON — Open December 1 to the third Saturday in May:

Big Hole River.

North Fork Big Hole River.

Steel Creek.

Red Rock River below Lima Reservoir.

All waters in Yellowstone River drainage downstream from bridge at Springdale.

COMMERCIAL WHITEFISH FISHING — Open entire year for the catching of whitefish for commercial sale:

Missouri River from Holter Dam to Black Eagle Dam.

Yellowstone River.

OPEN YEAR-AROUND FOR BROOK TROUT — Tributaries of Big Hole River above Divide Dam and Big Hole River and tributaries above bridge at Wisdom.

BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of nongame fish.

SNAGGING FOR SALMON — Open September 1 through December:

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir.

Pishkun Reservoir.

Bynum Reservoir, including inlet and outlet streams.

Ackley Lake.

SETLINE FISHING — Anglers may use up to six (6) unattended setlines with up to six (6) hooks per line in the following waters, each overnight setline must be clearly marked with owners name and address.

Open entire year:

Lake Frances, except portion closed as posted.

Marias River.

Split Rock Lake.

Pishkun Reservoir.

Clarks Fork Yellowstone River below bridge at Bridger.

Yellowstone River below mouth of Clarks Fork.

Little Bighorn River.

Bighorn River below Two Leggins diversion dam.

Open December 1 through March of following year:

Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

Hauser Lake.

Holter Reservoir — setline fishing prohibited from 12 midnight to 5 a.m. and from shore.

Lake Helena.

Helena Valley Reservoir.

Missouri River from Canyon Ferry Dam to Hauser Lake.

Open Second Saturday in June through February of following year — Eyraud (Arod) Lakes.

SPEAR FISHING — Persons swimming or submerged may take certain fish with rubber- or spring-propelled spears in waters open to fishing as follows:

Nongame fish and burbot (ling) — All waters open to fishing.

Five (5) whitefish daily — Missouri River between bridges at Craig and Sheep Creek.

Open December 1 through February of following year — Northern pike, and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from Eyraud (Arod) Lakes.

Open December 1 through March of following year — Northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling), and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from:

Pishkun Reservoir.

Split Rock Lake.

Lake Frances except portion closed as posted.

BAIT
(Use of Live Fish for Bait)

The use of sculpins (Cottus) is allowed in all waters. Other nongame fish (except carp, goldfish or rainbow smelt) may be used in:

Marias River.

In all streams and drainage canals of Muddy Creek drainage near Vaughn.

Bighorn Lake and its Afterbay Reservoir.

Little Bighorn River from its mouth to mouth of Lodge Grass Creek.

Bighorn River (except portion with artificial lures only; see Special Regulations).

Musselshell River below irrigation diversion near Cushman.

NETS (Use of)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.

In waters where use of live fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:

1. With seines not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or

2. With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.

A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT (also see Standard Regulations)

DISTRICT BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION ON MAP SIDE.

STANDARD REGULATIONS FOR DISTRICT

(Apply to all waters except those listed in **Exceptions-Restrictive** or **Special Regulations;** these waters are marked with color on map.)

FISHING SEASON

All waters open entire year.

Fish Weight Limits (Sturgeon):

The maximum weight sturgeon (genus Scaphirhynchus) which may be taken is 16 pounds.

DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Unless otherwise specified, (see Special Regulations) the following limits are both daily and possession limits.

Each fisherman may take all of the following limits:

LIMIT 1.
Salmon, grayling and whitefish and all trout, except lake trout — ten (10) fish in any combination.

LIMIT 2.
Lake trout — five (5) fish.

LIMIT 3.
Walleye and sauger — ten (10) fish in any combination, except for a portion of Fort Peck Reservoir — see Special Regulations.

LIMIT 4.
Northern pike — five (5) fish, except Nelson Reservoir where there will be no number limit.

LIMIT 5.
Bass (largemouth and smallmouth) — ten (10) fish in any combination.

LIMIT 6.
Paddlefish — one (1) fish daily and two (2) fish in possession, except for Yellowstone River — see Special Regulations below.

There is no number limit **on catfish, burbot (ling), sturgeon and nongame fish.**

EXCEPTIONS — RESTRICTIVE
(waters marked with color on map)

Closed entire year:

Wind Creek (Blaine County) from Clear Creek road crossing to its source, excluding Ross Reservoir.

Missouri River below outlet tunnels of Fort Peck Dam as posted.

Missouri River immediately below Morony Dam as posted.

Closed May 1 through July 10 to fishing or snagging from boats:

Yellowstone River from Intake Diversion to approximately one-quarter (¼) mile downstream as posted. Also see Special Regulations.

Open third Saturday in May through November:

Streams south of Highway 2 which originate in Bearpaw Mountains.

Open February 1 through October:

Rush Hall Pond (Fallon County)

SPECIAL REGULATIONS
(waters marked with yellow on map)

YELLOWSTONE RIVER

Yellowstone River downstream from mouth of Bighorn River:

From May 1 through July 10 snagging of paddle-fish shall be allowed and the snagging of nongame fish prohibited.

Paddlefish limit is two (2) per year. Any paddlefish caught must be tagged immediately and counted in this limit. Two (2) tags per licensed angler are available for $3 from all Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks headquarters and from several license dealers in Eastern Montana. See tagging instructions available at those locations.

Also see Exceptions Restrictive.

FORT PECK RESERVOIR

Fort Peck Reservoir downstream from a line between Haxby Point and number 6 navigation sign at South Fork Duck Creek including Big Dry Arm:

The daily and possession limit for walleye and sauger shall be five (5) fish in any combination.

Anglers may use up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with not more than two (2) hooks from April 1 through November. These lines shall not be suspended from free-floating devices such as jugs; however, floats or bobbers attached to poles or bank lines are allowed.

In remainder of reservoir the daily and possession limit for walleye and sauger shall be ten (10) fish in any combination and six (6) setlines (including jugs) are allowed.

EXCEPTIONS — LIBERAL
Open Entire Year:

Marias River.

Teton River.

Musselshell River.

Missouri River below Morony Dam (excluding river and dredge cuts between Fort Peck Dam and mouth of Milk River).

Milk River and its impoundments (including Fresno Reservoir).

Lone Tree Creek and its impoundments.

Poplar River.

Big Muddy Creek.

Redwater River.

Beaver Creek in Valley and Phillips counties.

Frenchman Creek (excluding Frenchman Reservoir).

All streams in Yellowstone River Drainage, (not including Tongue River Reservoir).

A portion of Fort Peck Reservoir (see Special Regulations).

Ester Reservoir.

Tiber Reservoir — (see note below).

Nelson Reservoir (see note below).

NOTE: In Tiber Reservoir each overnight setline must be clearly marked with owner's name and address. In Nelson Reservoir each setline must be clearly marked with owners name, address and setlines may not be suspended from free-floating devices such as jugs, however, floats or bobbers attached to poles or bank lines are allowed.

Open December 1 through March of Following Year — All lakes and reservoirs.

Open April 1 through November — Anglers may use up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with not more than two (2) hooks per line in:

The Missouri River and dredge cuts (including Dredge Cut Trout Pond) from Fort Peck Dam to mouth of Milk River. These lines shall not be suspended from free-floating devices such as jugs. However, floats or bobbers attached to poles or bank lines are allowed.

BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish except a portion of Yellowstone River, see Special Regulations.

SETLINE FISHING — Anglers may use up to six (6) unattended setlines with up to six (6) hooks per line in following waters:

SPEAR FISHING — Persons swimming or submerged may take certain fish with rubber- or spring-propelled spears in waters open to fishing as follows:

Nongame fish and burbot (ling) — All waters open to fishing.

Game fish — Fort Peck, Nelson, and Tongue River reservoirs.

From December 1 through March of following year — northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling), and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from all waters.

BAIT
(Use of Live Fish for Bait)

The use of sculpins (Cottus) is allowed in all waters. Other nongame fish (except carp, goldfish or rainbow smelt) may be used in:

Missouri River Drainage.

Tiber Reservoir.

Petrolia Reservoir.

Dredge Cut Trout Pond.

Kuester Reservoir in Richland County.

Cole Ponds, Frenchman, McChesney, Nelson, Little Warm, and Ester reservoirs in Phillips County.

Killenbeck and Whitetail reservoirs in Daniels County.

Flat Lake in McCone County.

Engstrom and Raymond reservoirs in Sheridan County.

Bainville Railroad Ponds in Roosevelt County.

Sam Lee Reservoir in Dawson County.

Fort Peck Reservoir.

Milk River and its impoundments below Fresno Reservoir.

Impoundments on Lone Tree Creek.

All streams and rivers except:

Milk River and its tributaries above Fresno Reservoir;

Streams south of Highway 2 which originate in Bearpaw Mountains.

Missouri River upstream from Morony Dam.

Yellowstone River Drainage.

Tongue River Reservoir.

Lindsay Reservoir in Dawson County.

Tauck's Reservoir in Carter County.

South Sandstone Reservoir and Baker Lake in Fallon County.

Spotted Eagle Pond in Custer County.

Coldwell's Reservoir in Garfield County.

Castle Rock Lake in Rosebud County.

Lame Steer Reservoir in Wibaux County.

All streams and rivers except Yellowstone River above Huntley Diversion.

NETS (Use of)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.

A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

Hoop Nets — Hoop nets without wings or leads may be used to take nongame fish, catfish, burbot (ling), and sturgeon in Yellowstone River downstream from mouth of Bighorn River (except for approximately two hundred (200) yards below all irrigation diversion dams), Milk River downstream from Highway 2 bridge below Dodson Dam except from Vandalia Dam to a point one-quarter (¼) mile downstream, and in Missouri River below mouth of Milk River. Each net must be clearly marked with owner's name and address.

Minnow Seines and Traps — In all waters where use of live fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:

1. With a seine not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or

2. With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.